

Amendments of the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (withdrawn) A catheterization apparatus for transseptal delivery of a device, comprising:

a sheath for traversing a septum and establishing a transseptal conduit for passage of said device
5 across said septum;

securement means disposed on said sheath for restraining movement of said sheath relative to said traversed septum; and

a shaft for transporting said device through
10 said sheath across said septum.

2. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheath comprises a flexible tube.

3. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said securement means comprises a reversibly expandable structure.

4. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said reversibly expandable structure when expanded engages surface portions of said traversed septum.

5. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said expandable structure comprises an inflatable structure.

6. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said sheath further comprises lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable structure.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said inflatable structure is made from an elastic membrane.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said inflatable structure has an inflated diameter that is several times larger than the diameter of said sheath.

9. (withdrawn) A method for establishing a transseptal conduit for device delivery during a catheterization procedure, comprising:

- providing a catheterization apparatus
- 5 comprising:
 - a sheath for traversing a septum wherein said sheath comprises lumen for movement of a device therethrough;
 - and
 - securement means disposed on said sheath for
 - 10 restraining movement of said sheath relative to said traversed septum;
 - puncturing and dilating said septum;
 - advancing said sheath through said punctured septum to move said securement means across said septum; and

15 deploying said securement means to engage
surface portions of said septum and thereby restrain further
movement of said sheath.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein
said providing a catheterization apparatus further comprises
providing said sheath in the form of a flexible tube.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein
said providing a catheterization apparatus further comprises
providing said securement means having a reversibly
expandable structure.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein
said providing said securement means having a reversibly
expandable structure further comprises providing a structure
which when expanded engages surface portions of said
5 traversed septum.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein
said providing said securement means having a reversibly
expandable structure further comprises providing an
inflatable structure.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein
providing said sheath further comprises providing a sheath
having lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate
said inflatable structure.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein providing said inflatable structure further comprises providing an inflatable structure made from an elastic membrane.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein providing said inflatable structure further comprises providing an inflatable structure having an inflated diameter that is several times larger than the diameter of said
5 sheath.

17. (withdrawn) A catheterization apparatus for implanting a device in an atrium's appendage, comprising:

a tube assembly for providing a passage way for movement of said device through the body's vasculature
5 and said atrium to said appendage, said assembly comprising at least an outer tube;

a shaft for transporting said device through said assembly; and

a positioning guide for engaging atrial wall
10 portions for mechanical support of portions of said tube assembly within said atrium.

18. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said positioning guide is disposed on a positioning tube that retractably extends through said outer tube.

19. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said positioning guide comprises a reversibly expandable structure.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said reversibly expandable structure comprises at least a preformed wire configuration.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said reversibly expandable structure comprises an inflatable balloon.

22. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tube assembly further comprises lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable structure.

23. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said tube assembly further comprises a delivery tube for advancing said positioning guide through said tube assembly to a location proximate to said appendage, wherein said
5 delivery tube retractably extends through said outer tube.

24. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said tube assembly further comprises a positioning tube that retractably extends through said delivery tube wherein said positioning guide is disposed on an end of said positioning
5 tube.

25. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a securement means disposed on an end of said outer tube wherein said securement means engages surface portions of a septum traversed by said outer tube to restrain further movement of said outer tube.

26. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said securement means comprises a reversibly expendable structure.

27. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said expandable structure is an inflatable structure made from an elastic membrane.

28. (currently amended) A method for implanting a device in an atrial appendage, said method comprising:

providing a catheterization apparatus comprising:

5 a tube assembly for providing a passageway for movement of said device through vasculature to said atrial appendage, said assembly comprising at least:

an outer tube;

a shaft for transporting ~~urging~~ said device
10 through said assembly; and

a positioning guide for engaging at least a portion of an atrial wall for mechanical support of portions of said assembly;

percutaneously advancing said tube assembly
15 through a blood vessel to establish a passageway to an atrium;

introducing said positioning guide to a location near an ostium of said atrial appendage;

deploying said positioning guide to engage
20 said portion of an atrial wall for mechanical support; and

using said shaft to transport ~~urge~~ said device through said passageway to a position within said atrial appendage; and

releasing said device.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus comprises providing a positioning guide that is disposed on a positioning tube that retractably extends through said outer
5 tube.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said providing a positioning guide comprises providing a positioning guide having a reversibly expandable structure.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said providing a positioning guide having a reversibly expandable structure comprises providing a positioning guide having at least a preformed wire configuration.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said providing a positioning guide having a reversibly expandable structure comprises providing a positioning guide having an inflatable balloon.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus comprises providing a lumen for supplying pressurizing fluids to inflate said inflatable balloon.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein:

said providing a catheterization apparatus comprises providing a delivery tube for advancing said positioning guide through said tube assembly to a location proximate to said appendage; and

said delivery tube retractably extends through said outer tube.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:

said providing a catheterization apparatus
further comprises providing a positioning tube that
5 retractably extends through said delivery tube; and
said positioning guide is disposed on an end
of said positioning tube.

36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 28
wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus comprises
providing a securement means having a reversibly expandable
structure.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37
wherein said providing a catheterization apparatus further
comprises providing a securement means having an inflatable
structure made from an elastic membrane.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37
wherein said deploying comprises expanding said reversibly
expandable structure.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38
wherein said deploying comprises inflating said inflatable
structure.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 28
wherein:

providing said tube assembly further comprises
providing a securement means disposed on an end of said outer
5 tube; and

said securement means engages surface portions
of a septum traversed by said outer tube to restrain further
movement of said outer tube.